



Sacred Sites International Foundation

July 18, 2019

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding St., East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Supervisors Wasserman, Chavez, Cortese, Ellenberg and Simitian,

We are writing because we have the highest level of concern about a proposed gravel mining development on the land known as the Sargent Ranch. We strongly oppose the destruction of this pristine sacred land for a project of minimal economic gain because this is the ancestral sacred landscape called Juristac by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.

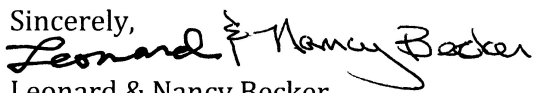
This sacred landscape is interconnected as a whole, imbued with spiritual power in all the natural features of the land and linked to all the plants and animals that inhabit Juristac. Juristac is an integral part of Amah Mustun cultural and spiritual practices as a place where ceremonies and dances are held, and the dwelling place of their great spirit called *Kuksui*.

One of our summer interns, a recent anthropology graduate of CAL, has been working with the Amah Mutsun to survey and preserve their significant sacred places. She has shared stories about the deep historical, cultural and sacred significance of these sites and she also commented on the value of being in these wild, undeveloped places.

Sacred landscapes are recognized by such international bodies as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through their World Heritage Sites as Cultural Landscapes because they are an integral part of the preservation of cultural expression. UNESCO also ensures that development of any kind, does not encroach on these places.

Additionally, in 2016, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) passed a declaration that indigenous peoples' natural sacred sites should be protected zones barred from industrial projects such as mining extraction.

Surely, you can join the rest of the world in recognizing the value of protecting indigenous sites! Please protect the Amah Mutsuns 'sacred landscape on unspoiled, undeveloped land. Please deny the permit for mining on Sargent Ranch.

Sincerely,

Leonard & Nancy Becker
Co-Founders